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AUTHOR Jones, Glenowyn
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ABSTRACT

Listing 81 chapter books for children published between 1996-1999, this annotated bibliography gives interest level ratings, reading level ratings, a brief summary, and theme assignments. The 13 theme categories listed in alphabetical order include Adventure-Survival, Autobiography-Biography, Death, Divorce, Good Reading, Handicaps, Historical Fiction, Multi-Cultural, Mysteries, Non-Fiction, Professional, Science Fiction, and Sports. Thirty-three suggestions for teaching young adult literature are attached along with a list of 12 questions to be answered when reviewing a book. (SC)

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What's New in Chapter Books

by Glenowyn Jones

Published:

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G. Jones

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

PRESENTATION

GIVEN AT MICHIGAN READING ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

I was excited about coming here to share with you some of the books that I have enjoyed reading this winter. I have the pleasure of reading all of the Chapter books that come into the store and assigning themes to them. When a teacher needs a book on a certain topic the list can be brought up on the computer. This is great help to teachers.

Before I share my bibliography with you. I need to explain a few things. First, for each book, I listed a few of the themes where I thought this book might be used. However, I'm sure that you will find others as you read the book. Then I gave the interest level (IL) and reading level (RL) if the company has provided it. If the comment says abt. a certain grade or reading level, I provided it. I used the Smog Readability formula as this one is fast and easy and as reliable as any since all readability formulas are just indications.

Occasionally I have listed a book with an earlier copyright date. This is because I thought that the book was so interesting that children would enjoy it and maybe you had missed it.

CHAPTER BOOK LIST

MICHIGAN READING ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

MARCH, 1999

Glenowyn Jones,
Sales/Reading Consultant

Keith's Distributors
Flint Michigan

ADVENTURE--SURVIVAL

BRIAN'S RETURN Gary Paulsen 1999

After having survived alone in the wilderness, Brian finds that he can no longer live in the city but must return to the place where he really belongs. *(Self-reliance, survival, wilderness) IL: grade 5 and up*

FROZEN STIFF Sherry Shahan 1998

Cousins Cody and Derek take a kayaking trip in Alaska and find themselves battling the raw elements of an untamed wilderness. *(Alaska, survival, adventure, camping) IL: 9-12 years*

HURRICANE RESCUE Susan Saunders 1998

Three children brave the hurricane to rescue their dog. They finally make it to the lighthouse and find themselves in a life or death situation. *(Science) IL: 8-12 years*

NINE MAN TREE Robert Newton Peck 1998

Yule assumes the responsibility of protecting his family from a horror stalking the swamplands. *(Everglades, family, hunting, survival) RL: abt grade 6, IL: grade 5 and up*

VOLCANO DISASTER Peg Kehret 1998

An "Instant Commuter" transports 12 year-old Warren back in time to Mount St. Helen as it erupts. *(Science, time travel, Washington, volcanoes, disasters) RL: abt grade 5*

AUTOBIOGRAPHY--BIOGRAPHY

MARY ON HORSEBACK Rosemary Wells 1998

Mary is the first nurse to go into the Appalachian Mountains to give medical assistance to the isolated families. *(Pioneer)*

OUT OF DARKNESS Russell Freedman 1997

Louis Braille was upset because he could not read. He developed the Braille system of reading for the blind. *(Handicapped, blind, biography) IL: grade 5-YA*

KNOTS IN MY YO-YO STRING Jerry Spinelli 1998

Autobiography

DEATH

SORT OF FOREVER Sally Warner 1998

Twelve year old Cady and Nana explore the strengths of their special friendship as they cope with Nana's cancer. *(Best friends, cancer, death) RL: abt grade 6*

UNTIL ANGELS CLOSE MY EYES *Lurlene McDaniel* *1998*

Leah has had cancer. Now her stepfather is dying with cancer. She finds comfort in the first real family she has ever known, an Amish family. *(Friendship, cancer, Amish, stepparent, death) IL: YA*

WANDER Susan Hart Linquist 1998

Grieving for their dead mother, 12 year old James and his sister Sary find healing in their affection for a stray dog. *(Dogs, death, grief) IL: 8 -12 years*

WHEN SHE WAS GOOD Norma Mazer

The death of her abusive, manipulative sister causes seventeen year old Em to relive their life together. *(Young adult, self esteem, handicap) RL: abt grade 5, IL: YA*

DIVORCE

AMBER BROWN IS FEELING BLUE Paula Danziger 1998

Amber's parents are divorced and she must decide with which parent to spend Thanksgiving. *(Divorce, family, friendship) RL: abt grade 4 IL: 9-12 years*

YEAR OF THE SAWDUST MAN A. LaFaye 1998

In 1934, when her mother leaves her and her father, 11 year old Nissa tries to cope with the gossip in the small town and the changes in her life, including her father's remarriage. *(Stepmother, remarriage, California) IL: 8-12 years*

DANNY'S DESERT RATS Phyllis Rednolds Naylor 1998

Danny and his friends, the Desert Rats, live in a complex where no pets are allowed. The Rats must find a way to keep a cat who has returned to a boy after having been given away. *(Friendship, cats, mystery, divorce) IL: 8-12 years*

GOOD READING

ANNIE BANANIE AND THE PAIN SISTERS Leah Komaiko 1998

Libby must come up with a plan to join the Pain Club, since she has never had a broken bone or been in the hospital. *(Need to belong) IL: 7-10 years*

APPLE ISLAND Douglas Evans 1998

Or 'The Truth About Teachers'. Bradley finds a book about teachers that says that good teachers come from Apple Island, the crabby ones are still there. His teacher kidnaps her students and takes them to Apple Island. Bradley must save them. No one listens to the principal. *Ink river, Chalk mountain etc. (Humor)*

BUG IN A RUG Jamie Gilson 1998

Seven year old Richard is self conscious about wearing a pair of purple pants to school. His uncle sent them to him. Now he is even more worried when his uncle is going to visit his school. *(School, worms, family) IL: 7-10 years*

GIRLS REVENGE, THE Phyllis Reynolds Naylor 1998

As Christmas approaches, Caroline and her sisters continues their feud with the Hatford brothers by asking Wally to be Caroline's partner for a special project. *IL: 8-10 years.*

LIZZIE LOGAN SECOND BANANA Eileen Spinelli 1998

Lizzie and her friend try to win a contest so that her friend can use the money to buy a telescope. Lizzie had wished for a father and now her mother has remarried. But her security does not last when she finds out that her mother is going to have a baby. *(Friendship, families, stepfather) IL: 7-10 years*

LONG WAY TO CHICAGO, A Richard Peck 1998

A boy tells of his annual trips to visit his aunt in Illinois during the Great Depression *(Grandmother, humorous, siblings, Illinois) RL: abt grade 5, IL:9-12 years*

LOSERS, INC. Claudia Mills 1997

After twelve year old Ethan meets a beautiful student teacher, he realizes that he no longer wants to be a loser. *(Friendship, brothers, self esteem) IL: 9-12 years*

MAZE(THE) Will Hobbs 1998

Rick, a foster child, escapes from a detention facility near Las Vegas and travels to Utah where he meets a bird biologist working on a project to reintroduce condors. *(Runaways, birds, wildlife conservation, Utah) IL: YA, RL: abt grade 8*

OUTRAGEOUSLY ALICE Phillis Reynolds Naylor 1997

Alice wants her life to be exciting but also safe and secure. She colors her hair green, etc. *(School, self esteem, belonging) IL: 9-13 years*

REVENGE OF THE SUBSTITUTE TEACHER Jan Lawrence 1998

After driving several substitute teachers out, the students finally meet their match. *(School, humorous)*

SEARCHING FOR DAVID'S HEART Cherie Bennett 1998

Darcy's favorite brother is killed. After a fight, she runs off, he chases her, runs in front of a car and is killed. His heart is donated. She must find the one who has his heart. *(Christmas, family, death) RL: grade 5, IL: 11yrs-YA*

SLAVE DAY Rob Thomas 1997

Relates the events of a southern high school 'slave day' auction as a fund-raiser. This leads the school and community to rethink their approaches to life. *(School, race relations) IL: YA*

6TH GRADE NICKNAME GAME, THE Gordon Korman 1998

Jeff and Wiley try to find nicknames for their school friends while getting adjusted to a new teacher who has been a football coach. *(School, humorous) RL: abt grade 6, IL: 8-12 years*

ZEL Donna Jo Napoli 1996

A longer version of the fairy tale Rapunzel. *(Fairy tales) IL: YA*

HANDICAPS

GAPS IN STONE WALLS John Neufeld 1996

A deaf girl living in the 1880's is accused of killing a man. She tries to run away. It has a surprise ending. *(Mystery, handicap) RL: abt gd 6 IL: 8-12 years*

MARY MELAN AWAKE Jennifer Armstrong 1998

A lonely young Irish girl whose father has returned to Ireland and whose brother was killed in the Civil War get a job working for a naturalist and is treated like a part of the family. Sequel to "Dreams of Mairhe Mehan". *(Handicapped, Irish-Amer.)*

SILENT SPILLBILLS, THE Tor Seidler 1998

Katerina, who has a stuttering problem, works to save a species of birds which she has named Spillbills. Her grandfather threatens to destroy them. *(Ecology, grandfather, handicapped, birds) IL: 10 years-up*

WILD KID Harry Mazer 1998

A mildly retarded boy runs away from home and is kidnapped by a an older boy who lives in the woods. *(Handicap, kidnapping, runaway, feral children)*

HISTORICAL FICTION

BLACK HORSES FOR THE KING Anne McCaffrey 1998

Gladden, a Roman Celt, escaped from his uncle and assists in bringing horses from Egypt to England to aid in fighting the Saxons. He makes the first horse shoe. Fiction based on fact. *(England, King Arthur, horses) RL: JH- YA, IL: 6 grade -up*

CIRCLE OF LOVE Joan Lowery Nixon 1998

Mary Kelly one of the Orphan Train girls is asked to go to new York to return a boy .While there, she is asked to bring back 30 children to be placed in homes. *(Families, historical fiction, sisters, pioneer) Sequel to **A Family Apart** IL:5-8 grade*

DAVID'S SEARCH Joan Lowery Nixon 1998

David, an Orphan Train rider, settles with a strict family. His best friend is an ex-slave who is threatened by the Ku Klux Klan. *(Pioneer, slavery) IL: 10 year and up*

DEAR AMERICA SERIES Various authors 1998

THE JOURNAL OF JAMES EDMOND PEASE (Civil War)
LINE IN THE SAND (Alamo) (War in Texas)
PICTURE OF FREEDOM (Slave girl) (Slavery)

DEAR AUSTIN Elvira Woodruff

Letters written by a young boy whose brother, Austin, has gone west on a wagon train. *IL: ages 8-12*

FAREWELL TO THE ISLAND Gloria Whelan 1998

In 1816, Mary decides to visit her married sister in England and experiences life away from the island, her father and White Hawk *(Michigan author, England, Michigan) Sequel to **Once On This Island** IL: 9 years and up*

GARDEN, THE Carol Matas 1998

Ruth, a survivor of a concentration camp, is in Palestine where violence is escalating between the Arabs and the Jews over the partitioning of Palestine. She is forced to fight and/or kill in defense of a place to call home. *IL: HS*

MOSES IN EGYPT Lynne Reid Banks 1998

To save her son from Pharaoh, a mother places her baby in a basket and sets him adrift on the Nile. The Queen raises him as her own. When he becomes an adult he leads the Hebrew slaves to freedom. *(Taken from the Book of Exodus.)*

NORTH BY NIGHT Katherine Ayres 1998

The journal of a 16 year old girl whose family operates a stop on the underground railroad. *(Slavery, Ohio) IL: 10 year -up*

OUT OF THE DUST Karen Hesse 1997

An accident leaves Billie Jo, scarred inside and out. Her mother is gone and Father can not talk about it. Dust storms are devastating the family farm. The one thing that might make her feel better--playing the piano- is impossible with her wounded hands. *(Depression, history, plains states) RL: grade 6, IL: ages 11-13*

SOLDIER'S HEART Gary Paulsen 1998

Eager to enlist, 15 year old Charley has a change of heart after experiencing both the physical and mental anguish of Civil War combat. *(Civil War, History) IL: YA*

WISH ME LUCK James Heneghan 1997

James wishes that the war would come to Liverpool. He wants the excitement but when the town is bombed, he is put on a ship headed for Canada. On the way the ship is bombed and many are lost. *(WW2, England) IL: YA*

MULTI-CULTURAL

ANTHONY'S BIG SURPRISE Wade Hudson 1998

Anthony receives gifts from an unknown person. He later finds they are from his father. He has always been told that his father died before he was born. *(African-American)*

BREATH OF THE DRAGON Gail Giles 1997

After Malila's father is killed, her mother takes her to her grandmother's home and leaves for America. Malila hears the stories and learns the traditions of Thailand. Years later, she also comes to America. *(Thailand, grandmother) RL: 4.6*

BURNING UP Caroline Cooney 1999

Macey researches the history of a burned out building near her home. No one will answer her questions. After finding the truth, she realizes that no one can change the past but she is responsible for the present. *(Segregation, African-American, death) IL: 12 years and up*

CASE OF THE LION'S DANCE Laurence Yep 1998

When $2000 is stolen during the opening of a restaurant, Lily and her aunt, a Chinese American movie star, search for the thief throughout San Francisco's China Town. *(Chinese-American, Mystery California) IL: 8-12 Years*

FOLLOW THE LEADER Vicki Winslow 1997

When Amanda's school is being integrated, she is nervous about starting sixth grade. After all it's 1971, and they'll be making history, just like the first man on the moon *(Integration, schools).* *RL: grade 5, IL: ages 8-12*

HAWK MOON Rob MacGregor 1998

Will, a Hopi Indian, breaks up with his girl friend on the night that she is killed. When blood is found on his knife, he becomes a suspect. *(American Indian, mystery, Colorado) IL: YA*

NO PLACE Kay Haugaard 1998

Having no place to play in an inner city Los Angeles neighborhood, 12 year old Arturo and his 6th grade class raise money to build a park and in the process learn about hard work, creativity and teamwork. *(Cities, Mexican-Americans) RL abt grade 5*

PAINT BRUSH KID, THE Clyde Robert Bulla 1999

Uncle Pancho, a Mexican-American, is about to lose his home. After he tells the children about his life, Gregory decides to paint his story on the house hoping that it will save it. *IL: grades 2-4*

PLACE IN THE SUN, A Jill Rubalcaba 1997

When Senmut's sculpting chisel slips and accidentally kills a sacred dove, Egyptian priests exile him to a lifetime of hard labor in a gold mine. To endure brutal guards and the heat, he turns to the one thing he loves most-his sculpture. *(Art, Egypt, survival)*

ROBBER AND ME, THE Josef Holub 1997

Boniface, an orphan, is left alone in a forest. A man in a black hat rescues him. He awakens in his uncle's house. Many robberies have been committed by a man in a black hat. (Translated into English in 1997) *RL: grade 5.0, IL: ages 10-up.*

SOFT RAIN Cornelia Cornelissen 1998

The story of the Trail of Tears. *(American Indian, history) IL: 8-12 years*

STONE IN WATER Donna Napali 1998

Italian boys were taken to Germany to work during WW2. The story tells of one boy's survival and escape. His friend, a Jew, was killed.

(Friendship, WW2, historical fiction, Germany, survival) RL: abt. grade 7

WATER BUFFALO DAYS Huynh Quang Nhuong 1997

The author describes his close relationship with two water buffaloes that were part of his family when he was growing up. *(Vietnam, Social life and customs) IL: 7-10 years*

WELL, THE Mildred Taylor 1995

In Mississippi, in 1930, the Logan family share their well water with both African-Americans and White Americans in an atmosphere of potential racial violence. *RL: abt 6 grade*

MYSTERIES

AN ACQUAINTANCE WITH DARKNESS Ann Rinaldi 1997

During the Civil War period, Emily, an orphan, lives with an uncle who she suspects is involved with stealing bodies for medical research. *(Physicians, medical research, Civil War) IL: JH-YA*

DEATH'S DOOR Betsy Byars 1997

A Herculeah Jones mystery. Super-sleuth Herculeah's investigation of the attempted murder of Meat's uncle leads them to a mystery bookstore named Death's Door. *IL: gds. 5-8*

FIND A STRANGER, SAY GOODBYE Lois Lowry 1998

Natalie needs to know who her mother is. She begins a journey that she hopes will lead to the identity of her mother. *IL: JH-YA*

HUSH LITTLE BABY Caroline Cooney 1999

When a baby is thrust into Kit's arms, she is astounded. She thinks that Dusty, her ex-stepmother, will come back for it. But she soon realizes that she is wrong. Whose baby is it? Who is the father? And why is it here with her? *IL: JH-YA*

KIDNAPPERS Willo Davis Roberts 1998

No one believes eleven year old Joey, who has a reputation for telling tall tales when he claims to have witnessed the kidnapping of the class bully outside their expensive private school. *(Bullies, mystery, New York, survival) IL: 8-12 years*

PAWNS Willo Davis Roberts 1998

A pregnant woman arrives at Mamie's door. She claims to be Mamie's son's wife. Her son has been killed in an airplane crash just 2 weeks before. *(Death , orphans) IL: abt grade 6-up*

SECRETS AT HIDDEN VALLEY Willo Davis Roberts 1998

After the death of her father, Steffi lives with her disagreeable grandfather in a trailer part where everyone seems to have a secret. *(Death, grandfather) IL: 10-14 years*

SPARROWS IN THE SCULLERY Barbara Brooks Wallace 1999

When Colley is abducted, he is taken to the dreadful Broggin home for Boys. With the help of his new friends, he learns to survive. *IL: ages 8-12*

TEACHER'S PET Richie Cusick 1998

Kate likes a little thrill and scare. She gets to go to a week-long writing conference which turns out to be more than she bargained for. A glove with a hand still in it is only one of the many scares she has. *IL: JH-AD*

TREASURE OF BESSLEDORF HILL Phyllis Reynolds Naylor 1997

The people of Middleburg search for buried treasure around Bessledorf Hill and Bessledorf Hotel. They think it was buried by Peg Leg, a pirate.

(Friendship, mystery) IL: 8-12 years

WANTED Caroline Cooney 1997

A young girl, home alone, hears someone breaking into the house. She hides. Later, on the car radio, she hears that her father has been found dead in the house. She is the only suspect. *(Cooney is a good mystery writer.) IL: YA*

NON-FICTION

COULD IT BE TRUE Allan Zullo 1998

True stories of chance of fate. Ex: Two girls in a hospital find that they are twins. *(True short stories, science) IL: JH-YA*

DIGGER Jerry Stanley 1997

In 1797, Indians of California were kidnapped and sold as slaves by the Spanish. They were forced to build the Missions. *(American Indians, California, Spanish exploration) IL: JH-YA*

IN THE HEART OF THE QUAKE David Levithan 1998

IN THE EYE OF THE TORNADO David Levithan 1998

Brothers have a special feeling for disaster and must try to save the people.

(Weather, science, brothers, disasters)

SEPARATE BUT NOT EQUAL Jim Haskns 1998

Integration of schools. *IL: YA*

WITNESSES TO WAR Michael Leapman 1998

Eight true stories of Jewish children during WW2 in Germany who suffered Nazi persecution. *(Germany, WW2, Holocaust, Jewish, survival) IL: YA*

PROFESSIONAL

WHAT A NOVEL IDEA! Katherine Wiesolek Kuta 1997

Contains 60 projects and activities for teaching Young Adult literature starting with 6th grade. Both suggestions and work sheets are given with the author's permission to reproduce for class use.

SCIENCE FICTION

AMONG THE HIDDEN Margaret Peterson Haddix 1998

In the future, when parents are only allowed to have two children, Luke, a third child in the family, becomes a shadow child and must live his life in hiding.

(Families, science fiction) IL: grade 6-up

ORPHAN OF ELLIS ISLAND Woodruff 1998

During a school trip to Ellis Island, Dominis, a ten year old foster child travels back in time to 1908 Italy and accompanies two young emigrants to America.

(Historical fiction, orphan, time travel, Italy) IL: abt 7-8 grades

RUNNING OUT OF TIME Margaret Peterson Haddix 1997

Jessie lives in a frontier village in 1850, or so she thinks. When diphtheria strikes the village children, Jesse's mother reveals a shocking secret-it's actually 1996. Jessie must go to the outside world to obtain medicine to save the children.

(Time travel) RL: grade 6, IL: gds 3-6

SPORTS

OFF THE RIM Fred Bowen 1998

Unhappy with his inability to score for his middle school basketball team, Chris takes lessons from his friend Greta's mother, who played in high school. He develops a good sense of teamwork. *(Basketball) RL: abt. grade 5*

RUNNING WILD Thomas Dygard 1996

When Pete and his friends are busted for joy riding, the arresting officer makes Pete a deal: spend a night in jail or join the football team. Other books by this author include **OUTSIDE SHOOTER, HALFBACK TOUCH**, and **TOURNAMENT UPSTART**.*(friendship, school, basketball, football) RL: abt grade7*

RL-Reading level IL-Interest level YA-Young Adult

SUGGESTIONS FOR TEACHING YOUNG ADULT LITERATURE

1. Compare a character to yourself or to the way we live today
2. Keep a diary for a character or write "Dear Ann Landers" letters
3. Write newspaper articles. Combine them to make a class newspaper
4. Write an additional chapter or a new ending for the story
5. Make bookmarks, posters, collages and book jackets
6. Write poetry such as diamente`, couplets and cinquain
7. Write to the author
8. Write to a character in the book and have a partner representing the character answer or have two book characters write each other
9. Do live interviews or role play interviews with characters in the book
10. Write a favorite part into a play and act it out
11. Have a panel discussion about the book
12. Debate the pros and cons of a character's actions
13. Make a dictionary of new words and/or idioms
14. Make a bulletin board display
15. Write a prediction on how the story will end
16. Write ads, commercials or commercial jingles for the book
17. Develop a character map
18. Write about your favorite character and tell why
19. Make up a logo, a symbol for the book, a travel brochure for the setting, or a comic strip based on the book
20. Do a comparison/contrast chart of the characters
21. Develop a time line for the story
22. Develop vocabulary by having a "new word" day
23. Write a song by changing the words of a well known one
24. Do a television play or a radio broadcast of a chapter
25. Research what was happening in the world when the story takes place
26. Sell the book by developing a bumper sticker, a button or a T-shirt
27. Write a new ending for the book
28. Allow students to create their own test over the book
29. Write a "what if" situation for one of the characters
30. Write a portion of the story from a different point of view
32. Write how the story would change it took place 100 years ago
33. Read the story for the blind

QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED WHEN REVIEWING A BOOK

1. After reading the first chapter of the book, did you want to continue?
2. Is the plot easy to follow?
3. Would your children enjoy this book?
4. Is there objectionable language in the book?
5. Could this book be used in the classroom, if so, how could it be used?
   Is it a read-aloud? Will it be read just for fun?
6. Does the topic fit into the curriculum? Will it lend itself to activities that will help to meet the State Standards?
7. At which grade level is this book appropriate?
8. Using an educated guess, on what grade level is it written?
9. Does the interest level correspond with the interests of your students?
10. Is the book attractive? What about the size of the print?
11. Is the size of the book appropriate for your age children to handle?
12. In addition to many of the above, answer these question when selecting non-fiction.
    Is the information accurate?
    Does the author have the background to write on this topic?
    Does it make a distinction between fact and fiction?
    Are there appropriate illustrations, charts and drawings?
    If it's a biography, does it give both strengths and weaknesses of the character?

NEW BOOKS 1999 COPYRIGHT

AT HER MAJESTY'S REQUEST — Walter Dean Myers

Themes: Africa, slavery, Great Britain, biography

FRIENDS — Gloria Whelan

Themes: Slavery, Michigan author, Michigan, Afro-American

IN MY ENEMY'S HOUSE — Carol Matas

Themes: Jews, Germany occupation of Holland, History

WHEN THE SOLDIERS WERE GONE — Vera Propp

Themes: Jews, Germany, WW 2, History